



National Reporting System for Adult Education

Proposed Changes for Program Year (PY) 2006 and Beyond

1. Revise ESL Educational Functioning Levels to Eliminate High Advanced Level and Add a New Beginning Level.

- The beginning ESL level has about 30 percent of all ESL learners and is quite broad, covering 20 points on CASAS, for example, which makes it harder for students to advance out of the beginning level. The High Advanced ESL level has also been problematic since exit criteria have been undefined, and there were only about 43,000 students (about 3.6% of all ESL students) enrolled nationally at the High Advanced level each year.

ED will split the beginning ESL into two levels (Low Beginning and High Beginning) and drop High Advanced ESL. Other levels would remain as they are. The table below illustrates the proposed change.

Proposed ESL Educational Levels	Entry Benchmark CASAS	Entry Benchmark SPL Speaking
ESL Literacy	180 and below	SPL 0–1
Low Beginning ESL	181–190	SPL 2
High Beginning ESL	191–200	SPL 3
Low Intermediate ESL	201–210	SPL 4
High Intermediate ESL	211–220	SPL 5
Advanced ESL Literacy	221–235	SPL 6

2. Reporting of Level Advancement for Pre- and Post-tested Students and Multiple Advancements (Tables 4a and 4b)

- Table 4 remains the same and will still be required.
- Table 4a, which measures multiple advancements in educational functioning levels, will be discontinued.
- Table 4b will be required for reporting. This table is the same as Table 4, except only students who were *both* pre- and post-tested are included.